

## REMARKS

In the Office Action dated July 14, 2004, Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hulsman (U.S. Patent No. 3,227,455) in view of Cutting (U.S. Patent No. 2,928,678). The Applicant hereby requests reconsideration in view of the amended of claims.

Applicant submits that the suggested combination, even if assumed proper, still does not render obvious the claimed invention. In particular, the combination of Hulsman and Cutting fails to disclose all the elements of the claimed invention. For example, the claims of the present invention have been amended to clarify that the present invention is a one piece assembly. In contrast, the rejection provided by the Examiner requires the combination of the hand grip of Hulsman and the thumb grip of Cutting. Thus, the combination of Hulsman with Cutting would inherently include two pieces. It should further be recognized that the claims of the present invention are directed to an invention for use with a single hand of a user. Hulsman discloses a grip for use with two hands. The present invention is also distinguishable over the applied references in that the claims of the present invention require two spaced apart opposing side walls. This further element of the present invention is not found in the applied references. For at least these reasons, it is submitted that the Section 103 rejection should be withdrawn.


The Examiner should also recognize that the present invention is a grip for use by people with disabilities such as degenerative muscle/tissue diseases. The present grip allows for such people to properly secure their hand to a sporting element such as a golf club. The combination of Hulsman with Cutting would not produce such a grip. The Applicant believes that the hands of a user with a disability would not be sufficiently secured to a golf club using the Hulsman grip with the Cutting grip. While such a grip may be perfectly acceptable to an ordinary user, it would not securely connect the hand of disabled user to the club. The present invention is also designed so that the grip is readily attached and removed from elements such as golf club. In particular, the funnel shaped body portion with opposing spaced apart side wall allows a user to readily secure and

remove the grip of the present invention to a golf club. This feature is also not disclosed in the applied patents.

### **SUMMARY**

The pending claims as amended are patentable. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner grant early allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicant via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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